



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/646,937	08/22/2003	Hamzeh Karami	34294/21	1294
1912	7590	02/23/2007	EXAMINER	
AMSTER, ROTHSTEIN & EBENSTEIN LLP 90 PARK AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10016			STEPHENS, JACQUELINE F	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				3761

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/23/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/646,937	KARAMI, HAMZEH	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jacqueline F. Stephens	3761	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2006.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 117-127, 129, 130, 132-134, 137-147, 149-151 and 154-196 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 117-127, 129, 130, 132-134, 137-147, 149-151 and 154-196 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 11/30/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Regarding claims 129, 146, 163, 168, 173, 179, and 189, in response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., hood fasteners that are permanently attached to the outer surface of the back waist portion) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Applicant argues with regard to claims 145 and 178 that Sauer does not disclose or suggest an absorbent article including, *inter alia*, a third prefolded nonwoven connector and a fourth nonwoven connector. Sauer teaches the front waist area can alternatively have separate fasteners (col. 7, lines 30-32).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 145, 178, 179-191, 193-196 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sauer USPN 5624428.

As to claims 145, 178, 179-182, 184-191, and 194-196, Sauer discloses a prefastened absorbent article as claimed having a topsheet 30; a backsheet 32; an absorbent core 34 sandwiched between the topsheet and the backsheet; a back waist portion 24 having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first lateral end and a second lateral end; a front waist portion 22 having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first lateral end and a second lateral end; the first lateral end of the back waist portion 24 disposed adjacent to and space apart from the first lateral end of the front waist portion 22 and the second lateral end of the back waist portion 24 being disposed adjacent to and spaced from the second lateral end of the front waist portion 22; a crotch portion 26 longitudinally connecting the back and front waist portions, the crotch portion having a first lateral end and a second lateral end 28; a first prefolded nonwoven connector 38 that connects the first lateral end of the back waist portion to the first lateral end of the front waist portion; a second prefolded nonwoven connector 36 that connects the second lateral end of the back waist portion to the second lateral end of the front waist portion; a first hook fastener strip 42 secured to the first prefolded nonwoven connector and releasably preengaged with the outer surface of the front waist portion and permanently engaged to the first and second prefolded nonwoven connector with attached hook fasteners (Figure 1).

Sauer discloses a prefastened absorbent article as claimed having a first and second prefolded nonwoven connector with attached hook fasteners (Figure 1). Sauer teaches the front waist area can alternatively have separate fasteners (col. 7, lines 30-32). The nonwoven connectors are folded at least twice -see Figure 7.

As to claim 183 and 193, Sauer discloses the nonwoven is breathable col. 8, lines 40-63.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 117-127, 129, 130, 133,134, 137-144, 146, 147, 149-151, 155-177, and 192 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sauer 5624428.

As to claims 117, 118, 126, 127, 129, 132, 137,138, 141, 146, 158, 163, 167, 168, 169, and 173-175, Sauer discloses a prefastened absorbent article as claimed having a topsheet 30; a backsheet 32; an absorbent core 34 sandwiched between the topsheet and the backsheet;

a back waist portion 24 having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first lateral end and a second lateral end;

a front waist portion 22 having an inner surface, an outer surface, a first lateral end and a second lateral end;

the first lateral end of the back waist portion 24 disposed adjacent to and space apart from the first lateral end of the front waist portion 22 and the second lateral end of the back waist portion 24 being disposed adjacent to and spaced from the second lateral end of the front waist portion 22;

a crotch portion 26 longitudinally connecting the back and front waist portions, the crotch portion having a first lateral end and a second lateral end 28;

a first prefolded nonwoven connector 38 that connects the first lateral end of the back waist portion to the first lateral end of the front waist portion;

a second prefolded nonwoven connector 36 that connects the second lateral end of the back waist portion to the second lateral end of the front waist portion;

a first hook fastener strip 42 secured to the first prefolded nonwoven connector and releasably preengaged with the outer surface of the front waist portion and permanently engaged to the first and second prefolded nonwoven connector with attached hook fasteners (Figure 1).

Sauer discloses the claimed invention except for the fasteners in the back are attached to the inner surface rather than the outer surface of the article as claimed. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Sauer to have the fasteners on the outer surface

since rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. Additionally, one having ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to modify the invention of Sauer to provide the fasteners on the outer surface to reduce irritation to the wearer.

As to claim 121, 139, see Figure 1.

As to claim 122, 134, 150, 151, see col. 8, lines 31-67.

As to claim 123, 143, 144, 149, 154-157, 164, 170, see Figures 2 and 3.

As to claims 125, 130, 133, 140, 142, 147, 159 the nonwoven connectors are folded at least twice -see Figure 7.

As to claims 119, 120, 124, 160, 162, 165, 166, 171, 172, 176, and 177, Sauer discloses the nonwoven connectors are secured to each other by securement means (see Figure 6).

As to claim 192, Sauer discloses the present invention substantially as claimed. However, Sauer does not specifically disclose the claimed percentage of the second portion of the prefolded nonwoven connector is non-elastic. However, Sauer discloses the general condition of a nonwoven connector having elastic and nonelastic components. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the nonwoven connectors with the claimed percentage of elastic and nonelastic components as claimed, since where the

general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation, *In re Aller et al.* 105 USPQ 233.

Conclusion

2. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacqueline F. Stephens whose telephone number is (571) 272-4937. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tanya Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone

Art Unit: 3761

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Jacqueline F Stephens
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3761

February 20, 2007